

## Ecological Issues in the Movie Entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe ecological issues based on the ecocritical study of Greg Garrard in *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie by Andre Adamson. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. The data in this study are dialogue, pictures, and texts in the movie that cover ecological issues. The data sources in this study were *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie by Andrew Adamson. The data is collected through the process of watching, enlisting, and screenshotting. The data is analyzed by identifying, classifying and interpreting. The results of this study illustrate that in *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie there are ecological problems that occur due to human activities. Ecological problems were found in the movie are the relationship between human and nature, the animals become wild and extinct, destruction of nature. First, the relationship between human and nature show that the characters of the female in the movie had associated with nature. Secondly, animals become wild and extinct because humans ignore the rights of animals. Such as destroying habitats and exploitation toward animals. Thirdly, the destruction of housing/shelter because of the human construction of houses for their own interests without thinking about other living things which is they take the land of Narnia.

**Keywords:** Ecocriticism, animals, Prince Caspian

## INTRODUCTION

There have been many environmental problems due to irresponsible and selfish human behavior. These actions bring impacts on nature, including transferring land, forest burning, air, soil, and water pollution without thinking about the age of the earth. As a consequence, factory wastes flow into rivers, forests are exploited to build factories, lands are converted to luxury housing that is not environmentally friendly. Many living things depend their lives on nature, such as rivers as economic traffic, springs as a source of clean water, forests as a home for animals. So, it is attracting the attention of the world. As a result, it is necessary for human beings to have an ecological assessment through literary works to raise awareness of the environment. As Endraswara (2016) said that some literary works prove that literature does need nature as its inspiration, and nature needs literature as a tool of its conservation<sup>1</sup>. There are many environmental problems that are the main issues in the literature, one of them is found in a movie. *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* is one of the movies that reveals about the environmental issues. This movie is an American high fantasy movie in 2008 taken from a novel written by C.S Lewis and directed by Andrew Adamson. *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie tells about the nature of Narnia that has changed to be wild for centuries. In this movie, the nature of Narnia was depicted so friendly and full of miracles, but all had changed because of the transition of power to the greedy and evil king. So that, the natural wonders of Narnia become dim, animals and forests go wild and the nature of Narnia has changed into worst significantly. Then, the old kings and the queens are the four Pevensie who once ruled came back to the Narnia. When they suddenly enter, they see that the condition of Narnia has changed greatly like it was no longer in the past. Since the forest has been damaged and replaced with buildings, animals are getting wilder. This happened because these animals have lost their homes and so on. Therefore, they re-explored the realm of Narnia and try to help Prince Caspian to take back his throne that had been seized by his uncle, King Miraz with the aim of restoring the glory of Narnia. Based on the issues, it is necessary to conduct studies that focus on ecological issues in literary works use ecocritical perspectives by Greg Garrard.

Ecocriticism is an understanding that arises in the community as a result of criticism of nature and the environment. According to Greg Garrard, ecocriticism is exploration parts of ways about how humans imagine and describe the relationship between humans and the environment in all aspects. Greg Garrard explores the development of the movement and the concepts related to ecocriticism namely Pollution, Positions, Pastoral, Wilderness, Apocalypse, Dwelling, Animals, Futures: The Earth. However, the researcher only focuses on position, dwelling, and animals because this movie only highlights the three concepts of Garrard's ecocriticism. The researcher prefers to analyze the movie by ecocriticism theory because of some reasons. First, this movie contains some environmental issues that need to be overcome by

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<sup>1</sup> As cited in NorfilLaily "Konservasi Alam dalam novel Baiat Cinta di Tanah Badui karya Uten Sutendy (Kajian Ekokritik Greg Garrard), Universitas Negeri Surabaya, 2012 . hal. 2

critical viewers. Therefore, ecocriticism is the right theory to analyze *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie. Second, ecological issues in the movie reflect to problems we face in our life. It makes ecocriticism is an important theory as an effort to save the environment through the lens of literature.

The researcher chose *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie because there are some ecological issues that are more dominant compared to other movies. They are not only about practically but they also raise some actions that utilize the power that tend to damage our nature (ecology damage), such as Miraz as a king try to destroy the realm of narnia by destroying animals and building bridges by cutting down trees wildly for his own interests. Based on the background, then the question arises: “How are ecological issues depicted in *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie?”. Based on the research question above, the objective of the research is to analyze the ecological issues depicted in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* directed by Andrew Adamson. There are two significances of this research, those are theoretical and practical. Theoretically, this research will give an understanding of the ecocriticism study, especially about Greg Garrard’s Ecocriticism. Practically, this research can be the reference for future research that also discusses the same study.

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This research discusses the ecological issues based on the ecocritical study of Greg Garrard in *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie by Andre Adamson. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method by ecocriticism theory. This theory look at how ecological issues occur due behavior of human being which causes the realm of narnia become damaged. This research used two sources of data, those are primary sources of data and secondary sources of data. The primary data in this research be collected from *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* movie by Andrew Adamson, whether it was the characters, action, dialogues, or pictures. The secondary data came from books, journals, and writing that relevant to this study to support the findings.

## **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

This research discusses how ecological issues are presented in one of the movie series entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* by Andrew Adamson. There are several forms of ecology issues based on Greg Garrard's ecocriticism concepts contained in this movie. Ecological issues can be seen in the table below:

No.	Ecology Issues in the movie entitled <i>The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian</i>	Representation
1.	Destruction of Environment	- Looted home to old Narnians <sup>2</sup>
2.	Wild And Extinct Animals	- Not consider animal rights
3.	Relationship between human and nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Associated between women and nature that contradicting with men and culture</li> <li>- The role of the human in solving environmental problems</li> </ul>

### 1. Destruction of Environment

Greg Garrard said that dwelling is not temporary, on the contrary, it implies a long-term buildup of human landscape memory, ancestral and death, rituals, life, and work. Land or nature is a place to live and provide a life for humans and all other living things. So if what happens is the other way around, which is due to human greed that damages and destroys nature, it will give bad effects on other living things. Like the removal of habitats from other living things and replaced with buildings for the benefit of humans themselves.

Based on the analysis conducted in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* found that housing/dwellings that will be saved by the four main characters in the story are the nature of Narnia with drastic ecological conditions, due to this nature been attacked and destroyed by the Telmarines, whereas in hundreds of years before, this place is very supportive and has an important role for organism that live in it because lives between the forests and rivers. With this ecological condition that has been damaged, the Narnians are suffering, not free and not prosperous. This is due to human behavior (the nation of Telmare) which basically has been bound to a culture that wants to control nature which is then used for their own interests. One of them by doing simultaneously seize habitat or their dwelling. Thing these can be seen in the pictures:

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<sup>2</sup>Narnians consist of Aslan, animals, the trees dancing, centaurus.



**Picture 1**

**Picture 2**

The pictures (duration 00: 46: 27 to 00: 46: 48) above show the cutting activity that is happening. The trees have been cut into wooden blocks and ready to be the main ingredient in making bridges. They are Telmarine nation. They treat the environment just for their individual adventures. The bad action will give the impact to organism in the forest. If the trees be are cut down wildly without regard to the environment what will happen is an imbalance of the ecosystem that threatens the lives of the animals that live in the forest. However, it represents human being's greediness toward the nature. Raising the needs to be fulfilled. They overuse the natural resources without thinking that the resources can be depleted.

The activity above is the action that don't protect to nature. They don't realize that plants (trees) are very important for them and the other creature. Tree contribute to their environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, climate amelioration, conserving water, preserving soil, and supporting wildlife<sup>3</sup>. So that, the forest increase the quality of the air because the trees have their natural process which is called photosynthesis and in that process they need carbon dioxide. Therefore, the trees will absorb the carbon dioxide from the environment around. The result of the process of photosynthesis is oxygen. It is what all the creatures need. So, by protecting the forest, the oxygen will always be sufficient for all the Narnians and even the Telmarine nation. However, this one of caused the Narnians run away from their homes which did not provide the sweet air like the centuries ago. As a result of habitat destruction caused the Narnians have lost their homes. This matter can be seen in the picture below:

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<sup>3</sup> Cited in Widodo Sungkono *et al.*, "The Beginning of the End: An Ecocriticism analysis on Clive Staples Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle. (<http://www.savatree.com/whytrees.html> 17/11/2015 21:09)



**Picture 3**

The picture above shows that there is habitat destruction. The point is that natural habitat no longer functions to support the life of the Narnians. Thus causing the Narnians who previously inhabited the place were forced to move in this case they ran into the forest. And there are even some and maybe many of the Narnians destroyed so as to reduce their population. That happened because the activity of the Telmare people had captured their homes, land, freedom, life. They make many houses and buildings for their own interests. Some of the survivors survive and hide from the Telmarine people.

## **2. Wild And Extinct Animals**

Humans also have a relationship with animals in humanities<sup>4</sup>. Where humans must consider animal rights. However, this study analyzes human behavior that ignores the rights of animals. Even though animals themselves have basic rights that are the same degree as basic human rights, they are called animal rights. One of the rights is that they need freedom, can live and their habitat is not disturbed. Factors that cause the animals in the Narnian realm in this case in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* becomes wild and even extinct is the destruction of habitat and exploitation of animals. The data about that can be seen in the picture below.

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<sup>4</sup> Garrard, "the study of the relationship between animals and humans in humanities is divided between philosophical considerations of animal rights and the cultural analysis of animal representation".



**Picture 4**

The picture above shows that some of the Soldiers of Telmarine hunt down Caspian, a dwarf, and a badger while shooting them. Then, the badger is hit by the soldier's shot. However, they have not moral responsibility to the animals that also want to live peacefully even by such the treatment will make animals become extinct with their own hands. In the Narnia, the animal's population including the beaver is out of balance and threatened with extinction even many have disappeared since the Telmarine nation came to power. Then, they spread the news that there were none left of Narnians. So, the new generation of the people of Telmarine like Caspian believes that.

### **3. Relationship Between Human And Nature**

Basically, women and nature have been connected naturally that both have a very close relationship compared to men. This is shown by two female characters in the movie entitled *The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian*. In this study, the female figures to be investigated are Susan Pevensie and Lucy Pevensie. Both are queens in the Narnian Realm. They are described as someone who understands nature. In its context, this time is the nature of Narnia. The first figures to be discussed are Lucy's sister and the second eldest of four Pevensie siblings. Susan, who is dubbed the gentle queen by the Narnian. Softness is not only fellow human beings but also animals and nature in Narnia. She is also a brave figure where she is good using arrows, even so, she never abuses her ability to hurt animals in the Narnia, even if the animals are wild.



**Picture 5**

The picture above shows that Susan is reluctant to hurt the bear. This scene showed the 'empathy' between women and nature (animal). Her unwillingness to shoot the animal depicted her feeling or emotion to protect the bear. This relation is trying to be raised in this movie as natural as possible so that the audience also considers it as something natural to happen because Susan is a queen in Narnia.

Empathy is the capacity to understand or feel what another person or creature is experiencing from within their frame of deference, that is, the capacity to place oneself in another's position; experiencing emotions that match another creature's emotion (the bear's emotion). In this scene, the bear tried to attack Lucy while Susan knows that animals in the Narnian realm are basically not like that, but they go wild because not taken care of anymore by Termare people. So that, based on observation of the researcher, Susan concerned what the bear is thinking or feeling. The bear wants to survive. This is very contradictory to Mr. Trumpkin and Edmund did. In this scene, Edmund shouted to Susan "*Shoot, Susan! Shoot!*" (picture 17), which is done by him is normal if this matter is seen by using reason. In this case, Edmund wants to protect himself from a dangerous situation by the bear's attack. Therefore, Edmund is presented as a person who uses his mind as a human being in a higher position than animals<sup>5</sup>.

A sense of understanding of nature is also presented by Lucy. Lucy is dubbed as a brave queen of the Narnians. She is very often described as someone who is very close to nature and animals, what stands out the most is her proximity to Aslan. This is clearly illustrated in the picture below.



**Picture 6**

Lucy, as a woman who has an emotional as well as animals, uses her feelings rather than rational<sup>6</sup>. One of these similarities is that it makes nature and women have been associated according to ecofeminism's concept of Greg Garrard.

The picture above shows that Lucy is a figure who has an emotional sense toward nature, in this context is an animal. In this part, Lucy looks very sad and feels lost her two best friends

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<sup>5</sup>This stereotype is the result of the construction of a society of adherents of dualism. Among others, that there are two substances that underlie the world such as culture / nature, human / animals, men / women, etc. So as to make one more dominating. In Garrard's book also said, "the first distinguishes humans from nature on the grounds of some alleged quality such as possession of an immortal soul or rationality and then assumes that this distinction confers superiority upon humans" (2004: 21).

<sup>6</sup> Greg Garrard. "women have been associated with nature, the material, the emotional, and the particular, while men have been associated with culture, the nonmaterial, the rational, and the abstract" (2004:21)



when she first discovered the realm of Narnia, they are Mr. Tamnus and the beaver. The sadness of losing her two best friends could be interpreted that Lucy had a deep connection with nature. Based on the description above that the author makes only Lucy felt that. So, the researcher finds out that it is not “the heart” that causes this condition, but the brain. Related to what Garrard said that distinguishes men from women based on several quality reasons, namely men have a brain size large than women. So, the differences in brain structure in which men have a greater volume<sup>7</sup> of growth in the parts that cause behavior less sensitive to feelings and emotions<sup>8</sup>.

So, based on the finding above show that there is problematic that be presented in this movie about the relationship between human and nature which are the actions that reflected by Lucy and Susan can be associated with nature, but this is contradicting with the other figure of male.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research in The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian movie through an ecocritical perspective by Greg Garrard, it can be concluded that this movie as a media criticize human behavior that always destroys nature. The phenomenon of environmental issues such as the closeness between women and nature makes both of them in a position of subordination, animals become wild and extinct, destruction of dwellings. Where this illustrates that humans are not responsible for the earth. Humans who feel superior to other living beings and are more selfish make them no longer think about the safety of the earth. Where in truth humans have a big responsibility to protect various living creatures and nature and this earth. Humans only attach importance to their own for their goals and mere satisfaction.

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<sup>7</sup> Insula anterior or “volume materi abu-abu”

<sup>8</sup> Gregorius Bhisma Adinaya, “Penelitian Mengungkap bahwa Perempuan Lebih Emosional daripada laki-laki”, <https://www.google.com/amp/s/nationalgeographic.grid.id/amp/13909727/penelitian-mengungkap-bahwa-perempuan-lebih-emosional-daripada-lelaki>. 1 Agustus 2018. (11:44)

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